

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 CU-04 /068 W
-----103559 041542Z /41

P R 041455Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8912

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NA
SUBJECT: CENSORSHIP OF USIA PRODUCTS IN KUWAIT

REF: USIA 24108 CIRCULAR

1. THE KUWAIT MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REQUIRES FOREIGN EMBASSIES TO SUBMIT MEDIA PRODUCTS TO IT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION OF SHOWING, AND A KUWAIT LAW (DTD AUGUST 29, 1976) FORBIDS NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHING "AN ADVERTISEMENT OR A STATEMENT" FROM "A FOREIGN STATE" WITHOUT PRIOR MINISTRY APPROVAL. THUS, ALL USIA ITEMS GIVEN TO THE PRESS AND ALL ITEMS PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED PRIOR CENSORSHIP. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME DISTRIBUTION OR SHOWING OF USIA PRODUCTS WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CENSORSHIP BY KUWAITI AUTHORITIES. THESE INCLUDE FILM SHOWINGS FOR POST AUDIENCES OR IN EMBASSY OFFICER'S HOMES, AND VERY LIMITED DISTRIBUTION OF WIRELESS FILE COPIES, BOOKS OR OTHER ITEMS TO CERTAIN KEY GOVERNMENT, OIL, AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS.

2. WE REFRAIN FROM SUBMITTING FOR CENSORSHIP ITEMS WHICH WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE OR PRIOR CONSULTATION WILL BE
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REJECTED BY THE CENSORS. THESE INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE SEEN AS DEROGATORY OF ARAB HEADS OF STATE (AN ATTACK BY SADAT ON QADAFI FROM THE WIRELESS FILE), REFERENCES TO THE "PERSIAN" GULF, DEROGATORY REFERENCES ABOUT PALESTINIANS, AND SOME REFERENCES TO ISRAEL OR TO PRODUCTS ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT LIST, SUCH AS FORD PRODUCTS OR COCA COLA. WE DO, HOWEVER, SUBMIT ITEMS ABOUT

WHICH WE ARE IN DOUBT, SOME OF WHICH ARE REJECTED BY THE CENSOR, SOME APPROVED AND SOME APPROVED WITH MINOR CHANGES. WE MAKE NO ATTEMPT AT EXTENSIVE EDITING OF USIA MATERIALS TO MAKE THEM COMPATIBLE WITH KUWAIT CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES. SINCE THE START OF 1977, WE HAVE HAD THREE WIRELESS FILE RELEASES AND TWO MOVIES REJECTED BY THE CENSORS. EACH OF THESE ITEMS DEALT WITH SOME FACET OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION.

3.THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT HAS EXERCISED NO CONTROL OVER OUR SELECTION PARTICIPANTS IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. GOK RECENTLY REQUIRED THAT ALL OFFERS OF FOREIGN STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS BE ROUTED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT THE USG MAKES NO SUCH OFFERINGS. SUTHERLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770998/aaaadelj.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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